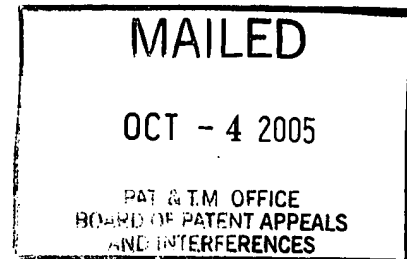


UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES  
\_\_\_\_\_



Ex parte KEIICHIRO WAKAMIYA and SATOSHI YAMADA  
\_\_\_\_\_

Application No. 09/818,906  
\_\_\_\_\_

ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER  
\_\_\_\_\_

This application was electronically received at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on July 8, 2005. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the examiner. The matters requiring attention prior to docketing are identified below.

On October 28, 2004, appellants filed a reply brief in response to the examiner's answer mailed September 10, 2004. The reply brief is not listed in the Patent Application Location and Monitoring (PALM) system. Before further review, entry of the reply brief in PALM is required.

Also, there is no indication on the record whether or not the examiner has responded to the reply brief. Section § 1208.03

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of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (8<sup>th</sup> ed., Aug. 2001)  
states:

[A]ppellant may file a reply brief as a matter of right within 2 months from the mailing date of the examiner's answer. . . . The primary must then either: (A) acknowledge receipt and entry of the reply brief by using form paragraph 12.47 on form PTOL-90; or (B) reopen prosecution to respond to the reply brief. See MPEP § 1208.02.


Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that this application be returned to the examiner for: 1) entry of the reply brief in PALM; 2) proper response to the reply brief filed October 28, 2004; and 3) for such further action as may be appropriate.

It is important that the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences be informed promptly of any action affecting the status of this appeal (i.e., abandonment, issue, reopening prosecution).

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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Application No. 09/818,906

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